

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Ink from an ink cartridge (9) is supplied along an ink supply tube (10) to a sub-tank (7) mounted on a carriage. Provided for the sub-tank (7) is an ink level detector constituted by a float member (33) on which a permanent magnet (32) is mounted, and Hall devices (33a, 33b). Further, a ink consumption counter is also included for calculating the quantity of ink ejected or discharged by a recording head (6). When a low ink state is detected by the ink level detector and when the value held by the ink consumption counter has reached a predetermined ink quantity total, the supply of ink from the ink cartridge (9) to the sub-tank (7) is initiated.